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Connected Through Adoption

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Connected Through Adoption

My work is often times a reflection of human connection. I am fascinated by how and why humans develop deep connections to one another. I was captivated by an image I photographed that depicted a bond between two sisters that existed despite their lack of biological relatedness or racial heritage. Many consider home to be where connections and bonds are created and strengthened. Within these walls, most feel they can be the truest form of themselves. It is within that truth that unconditional bonds without regard to race or biological relatedness may be formed. How do these bonds develop among transracial families?

I began with the objective to simply make an observation regarding the connections made in the home between these adoptees and all the family members they were placed with. As this project progressed, I learned that there is much growth that needs to happen in our society when it comes to transracial adoption. The project aims to highlight the need for children to be raised in a loving family unit with a sense of security regardless of their race. Through this project, I learned there is also a gap in cultural socialization. Cultural socialization requires families to see the cultural norms, practices, and values of their adopted child's country of origin as positive and worthwhile. Cultural socialization is a key process among transracial families and is linked to positive psychological and behavioral well-being for adopted children. How we influence our children to listen and respond to these different circumstances can certainly have a huge impact not only in their personal lives, but also in our society.

For many people, especially children, home is a place of comfort and safety where bonds are created and strengthened. Each family has a unique story to tell. Every element in the home, collected by the family tells us something about them. This is why each family was photographed in their home. Photographing each frame at a wide angle allowed me to not tell show their unique connections and bonds between them, but also allowed me to further tell the story of each of these family units.





















